Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6942

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MORG, PINS, PINT, GR

SUBJ: SPECIAL MILITARY CONCESSIONS FOR YOUNG VICTIMS

OF JUNTA

- 1. GOG INTRODUCED JANUARY 9, AND PARLIAMENT UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED SAME DAY, DECREE WITH SPECIAL DISPENSATIONS IN REGARD TO MILITARY OBLIGATION FOR YOUNG MEN WHO FROM AGE OF 15 YEARS AND OLDER WERE SUBJECTED TO VARIOUS TYPES OF PUNITIVE ACTION DURING JUNTA ERA.
- 2. MAJOR PROVISIONS OF BILL INCLUDE: A) GREEKS WHO WERE IN EXILE OR IMPRISONMENT FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS DURING JUNTA PERIOD ARE EXCUSED FROM FULL COMPULSORY 24 MONTHS OF MILITARY DUTY EXCEPT FOR THREE MONTHS OF BASIC TRAINING;
- B) THOSE IMPRISIONED OR EXILED LESS THAN TWO YEARS ARE ENTITLED TO TRADE-OFF OF UP TO EIGHTEEN MONTHS OF THEIR OBLIGATION; C) THOSE WHO SUFFERED OTHER INDIGNITIES, WITHOUT BEING IMPRISIONED, SUCH AS DEPRIVATION OF CITIZENSHIP OR DENIAL OF PASSPORT, HAVE SIX MONTHS ELIMINATED FROM 24 MONTHS OBLIGATION, OR AS IN CASE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS THREE MONTHS OFF OF 12 MONTHS. THIS

LATTER GROUP MUST PAY, HOWEVER, A SMALL FEE FOR THE MONTHS TAKEN OFF THEIR OBLIGATION. MINDEF AVEROFF, WHO PRESIDED OVER THE SOMETIMES ACRIMONIOUS DEBATE, WAS PARTICULARLY EMBARRASSED BY THIS PENURIOUS QUALIFICATION TO HIS BILL, BUT FINALLY ACCEPTED IT AND TWO OTHER AMENDMENTS.

3. DEPUTIES PRAISED THIS, THE FIRST MEASURE WHICH THEY HAVE ENACTED IN POST-ELECTION PARLIAMENT, AS A FITTING MEMORIAL TO YOUNG GREEKS WHO HAD OPPOSED JUNTA AND THEREBY SUFFERED AT ITS HANDS. SOME WILL ARGUE, HOWEVER, THAT THE ALLOWANCES ARE NOT PARTICULARLY GENEROUS. LONG BEFORE THE JUNTA, AND WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ANY DEGREE OF POLITICAL MARTYRDOM, GREEK MALES WERE ON OCCASION GRANTED EXEMPTIONS, PERPETUAL DEFERMENTS, AND THE RIGHT TO BUY OUT OF MILITARY SERVICE AT BARGAIN RATES. KUBISCH

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